



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



Postgraduate
Guide 2022

Welcome

"Cambridge has welcomed and nurtured students for hundreds of years. The collegiate University is bound together by a deep-rooted sense of community and shared purpose. Our commitment to excellence in education, learning and research is uncompromising."

My student days at Cambridge offered me the precious opportunity to challenge and deepen my knowledge. They also provided the space and the time to broaden my intellectual horizons.

Today, Cambridge continues to reach outwards, welcoming an ever more diverse group of students who have the desire and ability to learn and produce new insights that shift and deepen our understanding of the world around us."



Professor Stephen Toope

Vice-Chancellor



Please note

We may need to make changes to the information in this publication due to the pandemic and/or Government guidelines and restrictions. It is very important that you check the University and College websites for the most up-to-date information before applying or accepting an offer to study at the University.



"I will cherish my memories of Cambridge forever. Within my College, department, and the societies that I joined during my degree, I have met so many inspiring and driven people. The postgraduate community here is vibrant and diverse, in addition to being warm and welcoming."

I found great pleasure in researching a topic that I am deeply passionate about. I have become extremely fond of the beautiful city centre and its surrounding areas.

Whether you are about to begin a Master's course or a PhD, I have no doubts that you will also find immense joy in all of these things too. I wish all new postgraduate students the best of luck with your research and studies, and hope that your Cambridge experience turns out to be everything that you dreamed it would be."

Anjum Nahar

Cambridge SU President (Postgraduate)

Welcome to Cambridge

Consistently rated among the top universities in both national and international league tables, the University of Cambridge offers a world leading postgraduate education. With a global outlook and reach, our mission is to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.



140+



countries represented among undergraduates and postgraduate students



Top 10



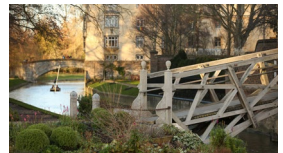
Cambridge is one of the top ten universities most often targeted by Britain's leading graduate employers (The Graduate Market in 2021)



Top 10



for academic and employer reputation (QS World University Rankings 2022)



121



affiliates of the University have been awarded the Nobel Prize since 1904

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An 800-year history

Cambridge is one of the oldest universities in the world, and during our 800-year history, we've welcomed thousands of students, many of whom have achieved incredible things.

Find out more about the history of the University on our website:



www.cam.ac.uk/about-the-university/history

1284

Peterhouse, the first College at Cambridge is founded.

1446

Henry VI, founder of Eton and King's College Cambridge, lays the first stone at King's College Chapel.

1687

Isaac Newton publishes 'Principia Mathematica', establishing the fundamental principles of modern physics.

1812

While an undergraduate at the University, Charles Babbage has his first ideas for a calculating machine and later starts work on his 'difference engine', which he never completed but which heralds later inventions leading to the invention of the modern computer.



Rosalind Franklin

Credit: Newnham College, Cambridge

1953

Rosalind Franklin, Francis Crick and James Watson discover the structure of DNA. Their discovery opens the door to the study of an entirely new science – genetics.

1947

David Attenborough graduates having studied Natural Sciences.

1941

The first aeroplane to be powered by one of Frank Whittle's revolutionary new jet engines takes to the air.

1938

Dorothy Garrod is elected to the Disney Professorship in Archaeology, the first woman Professor at Cambridge.

1968

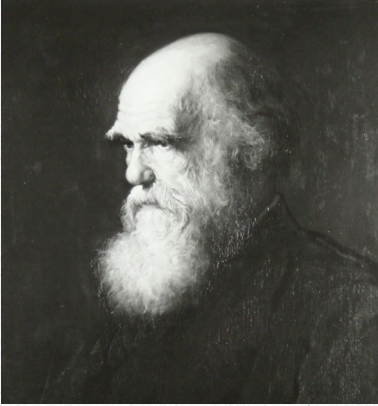
Anthony Hewish and Jocelyn Bell discover pulsating stars or 'pulsars' using Cambridge's Mullard Radio Astronomy Observatory. Their work alters the course of modern cosmology.

1988

Professor Stephen Hawking, Lucasian Professor of Mathematics, publishes his book, 'A Brief History of Time', one of the best-selling scientific books of all time. He is already eminent for his work on black holes and the Big Bang theory of the origin of the universe.

1999

Cambridge scientists identify the gene causing diabetes and high blood pressure.



Charles Darwin

Reproduced by kind permission of the Master and Fellows of Christ's College



Emily Davies

Credit: The Mistress and Fellows, Girton College, Cambridge

1831

Charles Darwin is recommended by Botany Professor John Stevens Henslow to join HMS Beagle as the naturalist on its scientific survey of South American waters.

1869

Emily Davies, suffragist, and others found Girton College, the first residential university-level institution of higher learning for women.

1897

J.J. Thomson, Cavendish Professor of Physics, discovers the electron. In following years, inventors use his work to develop new devices such as the telephone, radio and television.

1912

Lawrence Bragg discovers the mechanism of X-ray diffraction. Three years later, he shares his Nobel Prize for Physics with his father, W.H. Bragg.



Dorothy Garrod

Credit: Newnham College, Cambridge

1932

The atom is split for the first time, creating the study of nuclear physics, by John Cockcroft and Ernest Walton under the direction of Ernest Rutherford. Their Nobel Prize for physics is awarded in 1951.

1928

Xu Zhimo composes his influential poem 'On Leaving Cambridge' whilst studying at the University as a visiting scholar.



Xu Zhimo

2000

Alumna Zadie Smith releases her debut novel, 'White Teeth', which becomes a best seller and wins a number of awards

2009

The University of Cambridge celebrates its 800th anniversary.



Her Majesty is the Patroness of Queens' College and visited for lunch with more than 80 Fellows, students and staff.

Credit: Queens' College

2019

Her Majesty the Queen opens the Papworth hospital on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus.



Zadie Smith

Credit: David Shankbone

Working to improve the future

At Cambridge, we are committed to achieving excellence in research, and to ensuring that our research contributes to the wellbeing of society.

Here are a few examples of recent research topics at Cambridge:

1

Detecting brain tumours

Researchers from the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute have developed two tests that can detect the presence of glioma, a type of brain tumour, in patient urine or blood plasma. The researchers suggest that in the future, these tests could be used by GPs to monitor patients at high risk of brain tumours, which may be more convenient than having an MRI every three months, which is the standard method.

2

Scientists reverse age-related memory loss in mice

Scientists at Cambridge and Leeds have successfully reversed age-related memory loss in mice and say their discovery could lead to the development of treatments to prevent memory loss in people as they age. The team have shown that changes in the extracellular matrix of the brain – ‘scaffolding’ around nerve cells – lead to loss of memory with ageing, but that it is possible to reverse these using genetic treatments.

Credit: image by Pexels from Pixabay

3

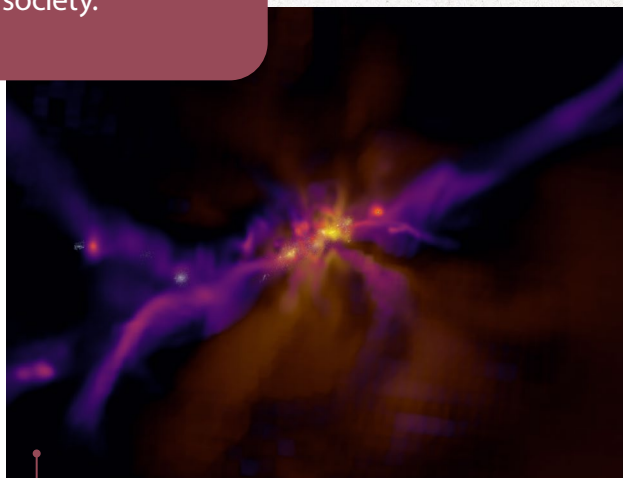
Astronomers pinpoint when cosmic dawn occurred

Cosmic dawn, when stars formed for the first time, occurred 250 million to 350 million years after the beginning of the universe, according to a new study led by researchers from the University of Cambridge and University College London (UCL).

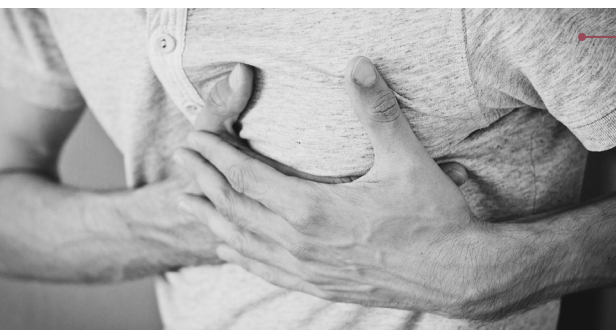
4

Saving lives from heart attack and stroke

Researchers from the University of Cambridge played a leading role in a major collaborative effort to develop a risk calculator which will better predict people at high risk of heart and circulatory diseases years before they strike. The researchers say this new prediction tool will help save many more people across Europe from having a potentially deadly heart attack or stroke, ultimately saving lives. People who are flagged as having an increased risk can be put on personalised preventative treatment, such as statins, or will receive lifestyle advice to lower their risk.



Credit: Dr Harley Katz, Beecroft Fellow, Department of Physics, University of Oxford





Credit: Xampla

5

Sustainable alternative to single-use plastics

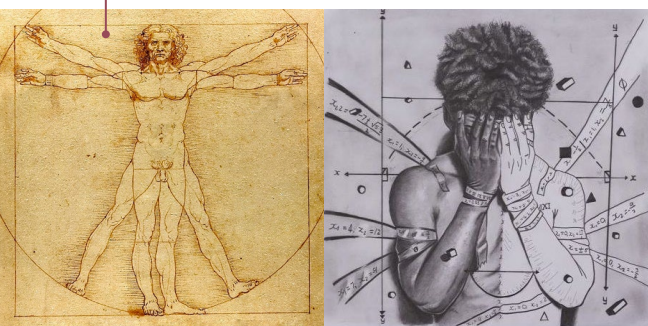
Researchers from the University of Cambridge have created a polymer film by mimicking the properties of spider silk, one of the strongest materials in nature. The new material is as strong as many common plastics in use today and could replace plastic in many common household products. The material was created using a new approach for assembling plant proteins into materials that mimic silk on a molecular level. The energy-efficient method, which uses sustainable ingredients, results in a plastic-like free-standing film, which can be made at industrial scale.

6

Teaching pupils to 'think like Da Vinci'

Curriculum reforms which mix the arts and sciences will better prepare young people for the real-world challenges that will define their adult lives, researchers argue. In a newly-published study, education researchers from the Universities of Cambridge and Edinburgh argue that there is a compelling case for a drastic shake-up of the school curriculum, so that subjects are no longer taught independently of one another. Instead, they argue that the arts and sciences should 'teach together' around real-world problems, and in a manner rooted in pupils' lived experiences.

L-R: Vitruvian Man (Leonardo da Vinci, public domain image from Wikimedia Commons) / Stressed Vitruvian Man (Jubalani)



7

Reconstructing Stone Age bear genome

Scientists have reconstructed ancient DNA from soil for the first time, in an advance that will significantly enhance the study of animal, plant and microorganism evolution. A team of scientists led by Professor Eske Willerslev in the University of Cambridge's Department of Zoology and the Lundbeck Foundation GeoGenetics Centre, University of Copenhagen, have recreated the genomes of animals, plants and bacteria from microscopic fragments of DNA found in the remote Chiquihuite Cave in Mexico.

Credit: image by Gab-Rysia from Pixabay



8

Combatting malnutrition

Researchers at the University of Cambridge say our future global food supply cannot be safeguarded by traditional approaches to improving food production. They suggest state-of-the-art, controlled-environment systems, producing novel foods, should be integrated into the food system to reduce vulnerability to environmental changes, pests and diseases. The researchers say that global malnutrition could be eradicated by farming foods including spirulina, chlorella, larvae of insects such as the house fly, mycoprotein (protein derived from fungi), and macro-algae such as sugar kelp.

Read more about these projects and other research news on our website.



Further information

www.cam.ac.uk/research/news



Courses

With more than 300 postgraduate courses on offer at Cambridge, including taught and research opportunities across an incredibly broad range of academic disciplines, you can choose a course that suits your subject and research interests.

Master's at Cambridge: The MPhil explained

At Cambridge, the majority of our Master's degrees lead to a Master of Philosophy (MPhil). There are two types of MPhil on offer at Cambridge:

- **The MPhil by Advanced Study**
- **The MPhil by Research**

Both types of MPhil provide excellent preparation for full-scale PhD research. MPhil students are introduced to specialist knowledge and research skills by gaining valuable experience in preparing and producing a research dissertation.

PhD Research

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is the principal research degree at Cambridge and is available in all faculties and departments. As a doctoral student, you will be focused on research which represents a significant contribution to learning, and you'll work on this research in a department or faculty which is internationally renowned for the originality and global significance of its advances in theories and knowledge.

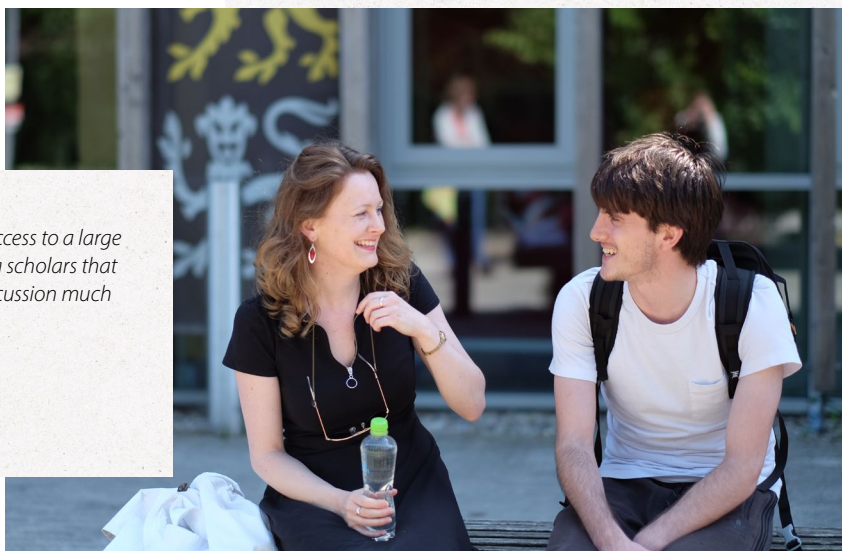
Teaching

At Cambridge, you will be taught by academics who are prominent experts and leaders in their field. Your department or faculty will assign you a personal supervisor whose role is to guide your programme of study or research. It is this blend of academic challenge and supportive encouragement that makes postgraduate study at Cambridge an intellectually rewarding experience.

"What I enjoy the most here is the access to a large amount of training. Also, the visiting scholars that this university attracts make the discussion much more interesting."

Simon

PhD in Theoretical Chemistry





Facilities and study support

"Being in Cambridge gives you access to virtually any resource that you might need to consult in your research: not only the existing stock in all the libraries, but also additional books, articles, etc. that they can quickly acquire for you."

Yui
PhD in English

Libraries

The collegiate University has more than 100 libraries across the Colleges, faculties and departments. The main University Library is a legal deposit library holding more than eight million books, journals and other documents ranging in age from 3,000 year-old manuscripts to the latest articles available online. Postgraduate students also have access to the University Library's 32 affiliated libraries, covering a broad range of subjects.

 www.lib.cam.ac.uk

Skills training

All postgraduate students receive training in research skills via their department or faculty's postgraduate training programme. Students also have access to optional skill-based courses provided by departments, the Centre for Professional and Personal Development, and the Careers Service.

 www.ppd.admin.cam.ac.uk

Museums

The University has nine specialist museums and collections, as well as the University Botanic Garden. Encompassing a wide range of resources from local archaeological finds and internationally renowned paintings to specimens collected by Charles Darwin, postgraduate students are able to use these collections for study, research, and also for personal interest.

 www.museums.cam.ac.uk

Language tuition

Whether you wish to learn a new language or improve your language skills to complement your studies and enhance your employability, the Language Centre offers taught and self-study courses at various levels in a number of languages. An academic English language support programme is also available for overseas students who require additional help to refine their language ability.

 www.langcen.cam.ac.uk

Computing and IT

All Colleges, as well as many departments and libraries, have computer suites offering a range of general and specialist software. Wi-Fi is available throughout the Colleges and departments, and most College rooms are connected to the University network and internet. An IT service desk and free computer programme training courses are available to all students.

 www.uis.cam.ac.uk

"No matter what resource you need access to, Cambridge can connect you to it. Be it journal articles, archived material, or collaborators around the world, Cambridge is a nexus for it all."

Samuel
PhD in Plant Sciences

Student support

Cambridge SU

Our Students' Union (Cambridge SU) represents the interests of all postgraduate and undergraduate students and provides a range of central services and support to help ensure you have a fulfilling student experience. Its aim is to make sure all students, regardless of study level, are represented, supported and have their voice heard across the University.

Cambridge SU is led by a team of elected sabbatical officers. Cambridge SU:

- represents the student body on University committees
- campaigns on important student issues, such as student support, liberation work and education policy
- supports and connects College student unions through training, forums and advice
- runs the professionally staffed Student Advice Service

You can find out more about Cambridge SU on their website: www.cambridgesu.co.uk

Disability Resource Centre

The Disability Resource Centre (DRC) offers guidance, information and support, and is an essential contact for disabled applicants, including those with a specific learning difficulty, mental health conditions, or long-term health conditions. Disclosing this information won't form part of the decision-making process and your application will be processed in exactly the same way as any other application. You are strongly encouraged to disclose any disability including any specific learning difficulty (SpLD), long-term health condition or mental health condition, and to provide any relevant information in your application.

If you have disclosed a disability and receive a conditional offer of admission to the University, the DRC will get in contact to put a support plan in place to make any reasonable adjustments needed during your time at Cambridge.

www.disability.admin.cam.ac.uk

Faith

The University of Cambridge and its Colleges are a multi-faith community and provide facilities and opportunities for individuals to explore their faith and beliefs. The University provides a range of faith societies and communities which are open to all individuals, with multi-faith facilities and designated spaces for prayer and reflection by students of all faiths or none. Around Cambridge there are also a range of religion-specific places of worship. Some Colleges also have a Chaplain or Dean who have a pastoral role among members of the College community and are available to all students of all faiths.

Student parents and childcare

The University's Childcare Office operates the Information Service that provides comprehensive guidance on family-related matters such as childcare, schooling, healthcare, financial support and local community resources. The Childcare Office also oversees the facilities and assistance available to student parents, including the West Cambridge and Eddington Nurseries, and the Holiday Playscheme.

Some Colleges can provide family accommodation (see the individual College websites). Where this isn't available, please refer to the central Accommodation Service (see below).

www.childcare.admin.cam.ac.uk

Other sources of support

Accommodation Service

www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk

International Student Office

www.iso.admin.cam.ac.uk

"Support from academic supervisors has been exceptional - I have a great relationship with my supervisor and other staff in the department. I have engaged with the Counselling service at the University who provide excellent support and welfare services and are an integral part of the support/welfare at the University."

Rebecca

PhD in Medical Science



Careers

Career destinations

Cambridge graduates are highly employable and our students go on to careers across many industries and sectors. But it is not just employment that our postgraduate courses prepare you for – many Master's students go into further research study, and many of our PhD students pursue careers in research and academia.

The University of Cambridge Careers Service can work with you from day one to explore options, connect you with employers and help you navigate the complex job market – saving you time and maximising your employability prospects. Whether you have no idea what to do next, a few ideas or a definite plan, the Careers Service offer plenty to help you take the next step, such as:

- One-to-one guidance consultations
- Typically around 15 major careers events each year
- An extensive programme of briefings and skill sessions
- Upcoming employer presentations
- Free resources to help create CVs and cover letters
- Free access to online practice psychometric tests
- A database of over 4,000 job vacancies



www.careers.cam.ac.uk



Advice tailored to you

The Careers Service offers a wide range of services, including advice and support specific to postgraduate students. You can make an appointment with the Careers Service for personally tailored advice and to consider your options, and our careers advisers can help you make informed career choices and work out what to do next, whether that is:

- Matching your interests and skills to possible careers
- Providing guidance on working as a postgraduate student
- Offering job application support



Student life in and around Cambridge



"One thing I do love about Cambridge is the variety of niche-interest clubs available - the only difficulty is not doing too many things!"

Lee

PhD in Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic



"I had a terrific experience with my scholars/friends from the funding body and they were one of the main reasons why Cambridge has been such a welcoming place for me from the very beginning. They not only provided me with essential financial support, but also with many other social and academic opportunities during the whole duration of the course."

Filip

MPhil in Physics (by Research)

Entertainment, music and festivals

However you like to spend your time, there's always something to keep you entertained. Cambridge has theatres, cinemas and entertainment venues offering varied programmes that include comedy, drama, dance, concerts and club nights. Live music is also a big part of life in both the city and University, from buskers and pub gigs, to classical concerts and big name acts. The city usually hosts a number of music festivals featuring a wide variety of acts and musical styles, including folk, jazz, rock, ska, UK urban and dance.

Pubs, clubs and restaurants

Cambridge has a great range of pubs, bars and cafes, from traditional pubs with open fires to modern bars overlooking the river. There's a great selection of places to eat for any mood, taste, occasion, and budget. Better still, various cafés and restaurants offer special discounts for students.

Shopping

Cambridge's three shopping centres, the market and the city's central streets house most high street names alongside independent shops and boutiques. Just outside the centre, you can find an eclectic mix of international food shops, cafés and restaurants.

Outside the city

If you want to explore further afield, Cambridge has direct rail links to London, Brighton and Birmingham, and there's also plenty to discover in the region.

- Walking and cycling routes
- Punting up river to Grantchester
- Ely and its cathedral
- Historical buildings, gardens and museums
- Nature reserves, wildlife parks and zoos



Student societies

All students at Cambridge are able to take full advantage of the clubs and societies on offer at the University, and our postgraduate students can get involved in all aspects of student life here beyond their academic studies.

At Cambridge, there are hundreds of student groups, clubs and societies relating to:

- Academic subjects
- Community, charity and volunteering projects
- Particular cultures and nationalities
- The environment
- Faiths and religion
- Food and drink
- Games, hobbies and outdoor pursuits
- Media (eg. journalism, TV, radio, film-making, photography)
- Performing arts (eg. comedy, dance, drama, music)
- Politics and debating
- Science and technology

See the full range on the Societies Directory:

www.cambridgesu.co.uk/opportunities/societies

Sport

The sports scene at Cambridge is huge. More than 80 sports are offered here, including team games, water sports, martial arts, racket sports and extreme sports.

One of the advantages of being collegiate is how easy it is for students to get involved with sports at any level. There are College teams for novices and experts, as well as the University teams that represent Cambridge against other universities and club teams. Most sports teams at the University include a mix of undergraduates and postgraduates so everyone is welcome to take part.

Many clubs and groups offer taster sessions at the beginning of each year so you can try them out and find out more.



Applying to Cambridge

To apply to the University of Cambridge, you must submit an online application through the Applicant Portal on our Postgraduate Admissions website. Applications to our postgraduate courses open in early September each year with various deadlines throughout the year that you need to consider. This section guides you through the postgraduate application process, from finding your ideal course, to receiving an offer.

1

Course

Before applying, you should thoroughly research your prospective course, including its requirements, deadlines and course costs. If you are applying for a PhD, you are advised to get in touch with a potential supervisor in the relevant department/faculty. For advice on how to find a suitable supervisor, you can check the department's PhD webpages or contact the department/faculty directly.

2

Deadlines

There are two deadlines that you need to consider: the application deadline and the funding deadline. If you wish to be considered in our Graduate Funding Competition you need to apply by the funding deadline (see p18-19 for more details). Course and funding applications are made via the same online form, so you must apply by whichever deadline comes first.

Please note, applications may close before the course deadline if all places have been filled, so we recommend applying as early as possible.



www.cam.ac.uk/pgcourses





3

Applicant Portal

The Applicant Portal is where you write and submit your application, as well as pay the application fee. Visit our website to see if you are eligible for a fee waiver. Once you have selected your course in the Course Directory, click the 'Apply Online' button to be directed to the Applicant Portal. Any supporting documentation requested on the course page (eg transcripts) must also be uploaded in a pdf format via the Applicant Portal by the deadline.

The Applicant Portal opens on **1 September** each year for admissions to the next academic year.

4

Academic references

You are required to submit two academic references, which you can request and submit via the Applicant Portal. You should ensure you have your referees' consent before you apply. Your application is complete only when all your references have been submitted, so you should request your references as early as possible.

5

Colleges

All postgraduates are a member of a College (see p20-21). In your application to Cambridge, you can indicate two College preferences or choose to make an open application to have a College allocated to you. While over 65 per cent of applicants get one of their College preferences, this cannot be guaranteed. Please note that departments/faculties make admissions decisions for postgraduate courses at Cambridge.



6

Submit your application

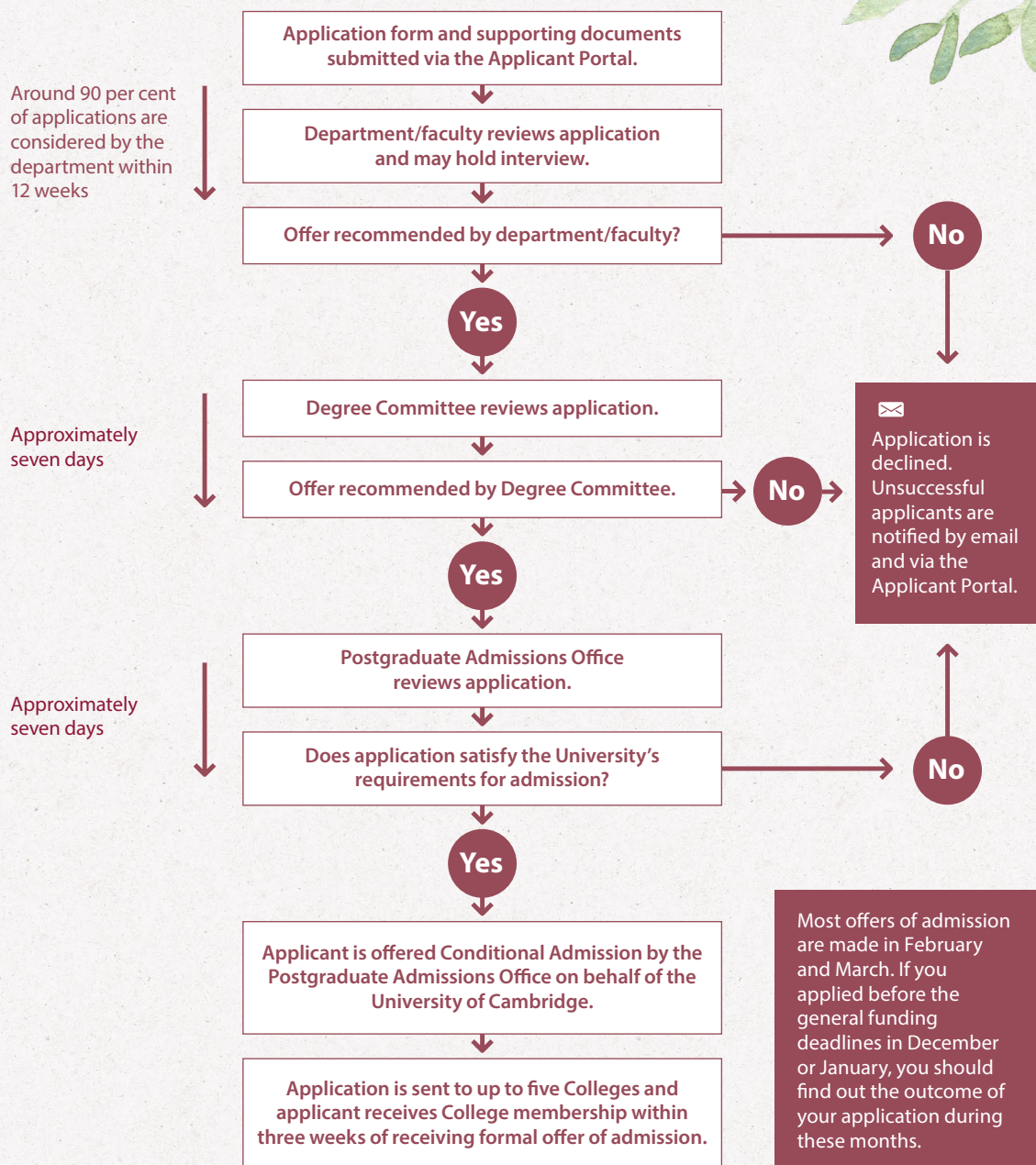
Once you have finished writing your application, and all your documents are uploaded, your application is ready to be submitted and you will be asked to pay the application fee. You will not be able to download a copy of your application after submission so please save your application before you submit if you would like your own copy.

7

Interview

Most departments/faculties will want to interview you if your application is progressed to the next stage in the admissions process. Some scholarships and studentships will also invite shortlisted candidates for interviews. Most interviews will be conducted via video conferencing or telephone.

After applying: What happens next?



Offers

What are we looking for?

Decisions on admission to the University for postgraduate study are made on academic merit and your suitability for the course.

The availability of an appropriate supervisor and space on the course are also taken into consideration in our admissions process. We consider all applications holistically and on an individual basis.

Offers

If your application has been recommended by the department/faculty and approved by the Postgraduate Admissions Office, you will receive a formal offer of admission by email. If you have made more than one application, you may receive more than one conditional offer, but you will only be able to accept one.

Meeting offer conditions

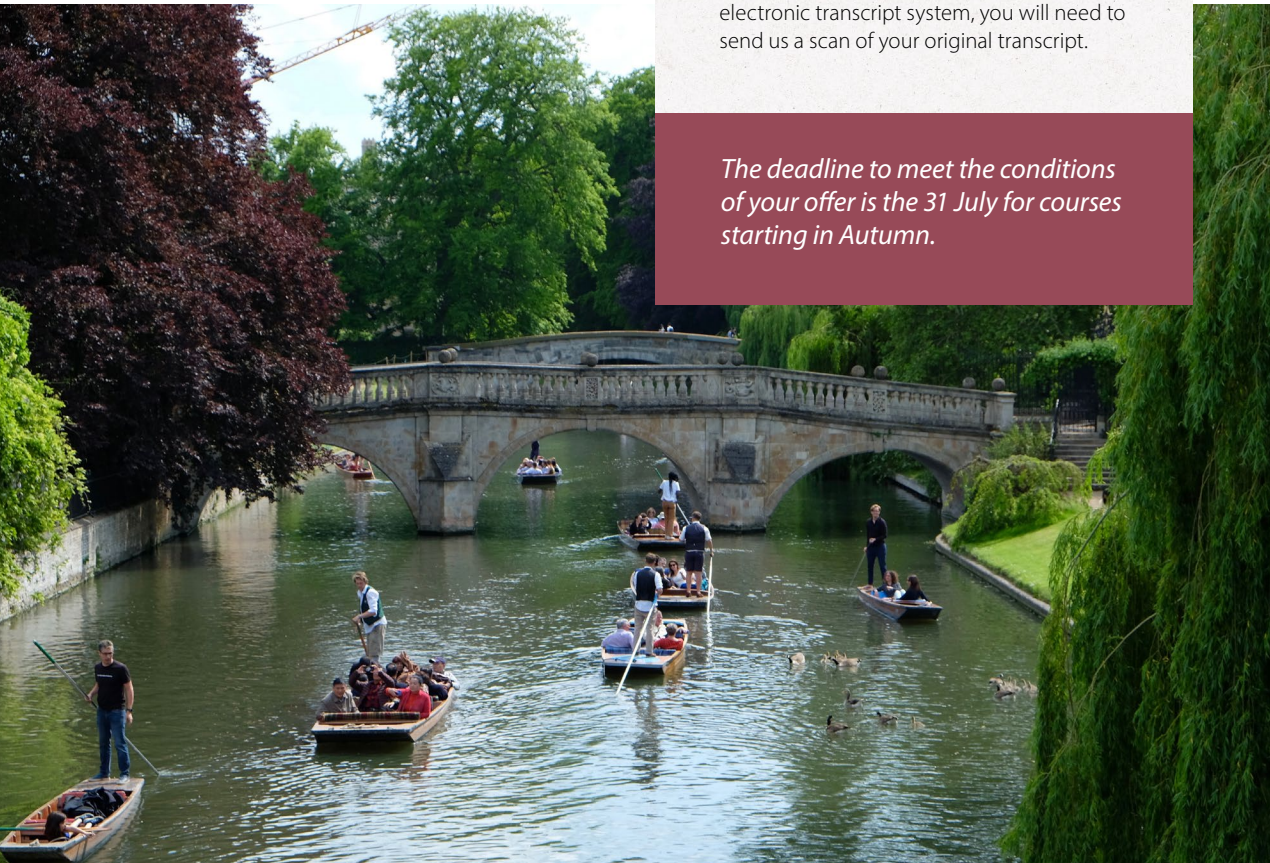
Once you have received an official offer of admission from the Postgraduate Admissions Office, you will receive access to your Self-Service Account which tells you everything you need to know about your offer conditions.

Your Self-Service Account allows you to:

- View your offer conditions
- Print a certificate of your offer
- Accept or decline your offer
- Request a deferral of admission, if the course permits
- Provide documents to meet your conditions

Offer holders will need to provide an official transcript. Your official transcript may be sent to us electronically if your institution has a recognised secure electronic transcript system, namely Digitary, HEAR or GradIntel. You will need to contact your institution to enquire whether they offer this facility. If you're unable to send a transcript to a secure electronic transcript system, you will need to send us a scan of your original transcript.

The deadline to meet the conditions of your offer is the 31 July for courses starting in Autumn.



Finance and funding

The cost of studying at the University of Cambridge is broken down into two areas:

1. University Composition Fee (UCF)

The UCF is paid to your College to cover the cost of your education and College membership and its value is dependent on your fee status (Home/ Overseas) and course of study.

2. Maintenance

The absolute minimum estimated living costs that you'll need to have available during your time at the University. You won't need to pay anyone this amount, but you do need to make sure you have these funds available to support yourself for the duration of your studies.

When considering postgraduate study at the University, you may find it helpful to look at the estimated annual financial commitment for your course, which you can calculate on our website.



www.postgraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/finance

Funding at Cambridge

Every year the University awards over £100m in scholarships to new postgraduate students. Many of our students are also able to fund their studies from external sources, such as loans, charities or government schemes.

Applying for funding is a key part of applying for postgraduate study at Cambridge, as this is usually awarded separately. You should read through these pages and refer to our website to help you understand what is required of you and what funding opportunities are available.

Applying for funding

There are several different ways to apply for funding and different funding deadlines apply depending on which course you're applying for and if you're a US citizen applying for a Gates Scholarship.

We've included an overview here, but please check our website for full details.

How to apply for funding

There are three ways to apply for University funding:

① Automatically through the Postgraduate Applicant Portal

By ticking 'I want to be considered for funding' when you apply through the Applicant Portal, you will automatically be considered for most Cambridge Trust funds,¹ some Research Council funding (please check the website for details), and some department and College funds. To be considered for these funds, you will need to apply by the course funding deadline.

② Through the Applicant Portal with additional information

Other funds are still applied for through the Applicant Portal but require either additional fields within the form to be completed or an additional application form to be uploaded. This includes the Gates Cambridge Trust, certain Research Council funding (please see the website for details) and the Harding Distinguished Postgraduate Scholars Programme.

Please note if you miss your relevant funding deadline, you cannot be considered for any of the funding opportunities above, though other departmental or College funding opportunities may still be open to you.

③ Through a separate form

Various other funds are administered separately and may require an additional form. A number of these are listed on our Student Funding Search (www.student-funding.cam.ac.uk) but you should also check the Cambridge Trust website (www.cambridgetrust.org) and our College and department websites.

Further information

www.postgraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/funding/how-apply-funding



Funding deadlines

You should check the funding application deadlines carefully as these will vary depending on what course you're applying for and what type of funding you're applying for.

The deadlines below² relate primarily to University and Research Council (UKRI) funding. Department and College funding may have different deadlines. Please check the course directory to find out which course funding deadline applies to you:

www.postgraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses



Useful advice for finance and funding

There's a lot to consider when it comes to postgraduate finance and funding, so we've put together some useful tips below:

- **Research early**

Start researching funding opportunities as soon as possible. If you have time, start at least a year before your course begins. You can use the Funding Search on our website. You'll also find details of external funding opportunities online.

- **Apply early**

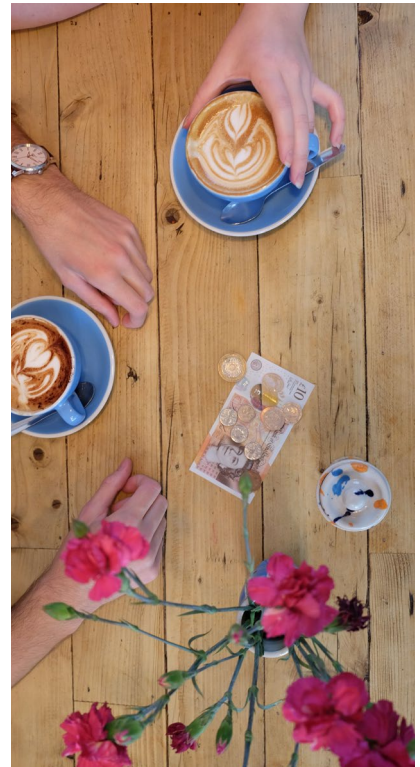
Many scholarship deadlines fall early in December, for admission in the following year. If your course starts in January or April you may need to apply for funding 18 months in advance.

- **Get funding or financing before you start studying**

In order to take up a place, successful applicants will need to evidence how they plan to finance their study. You shouldn't expect to be able to find funding after your course starts.

- **Apply for many funding opportunities**

We encourage you to apply for as many funding opportunities as possible, both internal and external to the University. If you're applying for a department award or a funded place, remember to also search and apply for other funding schemes to increase your chances.



Further information

www.postgraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/funding

¹ The Cambridge Trust has a large number of varied funds, some of which have quite specific eligibility requirements. Therefore, you are invited in the Applicant Portal to indicate if there are any funds you feel you are particularly eligible as this will help us identify the most suitable funding for you. You are not required to indicate any specific funds in order to be considered.

² Please note these deadlines are for applicants for courses starting in the University's three termly starting points: Michaelmas 2022, Lent 2023 and Easter 2023.



Colleges

At Cambridge, as well as being a member of the University, you are also a member of one of our 31 Colleges.

"I have found the community at my College and Faculty to be welcoming, and this was an extremely helpful resource and I now consider Cambridge to be a second home."

Tanya
Toronto, Canada

Cambridge Colleges form one of the key communities for postgraduates during their studies, offering a range of academic and pastoral support, accommodation and facilities for study and leisure. No matter which College you join, you will be welcomed into an inclusive, interdisciplinary, supportive and social community for postgraduate students.

Unlike undergraduate degree applications, Colleges do not assess and admit postgraduate student applications. The decision on whether you will be made an offer is decided by the department/faculty you apply to.

College choice

As part of your application, you can indicate two College preferences or you can choose to make an open application. Opting for an open application simply means that the system will automatically allocate College choices for you.

Choosing College preferences or making an open application has no effect on the outcome of your application to the University as Colleges do not make admissions decisions for postgraduate courses at Cambridge. Your application will only be sent to a College after you have been made an offer of admission to the University.

Although over 65 per cent of postgraduate students at Cambridge become a member of their preference choices, you may be considered by up to five Colleges.

The first two Colleges will be the preferences indicated in your application or the two Colleges assigned to you if you made an open application. If you are not accepted by either of your preference Colleges, the additional Colleges will be determined by the system based on the availability of spaces within a College.

If you have been made a formal offer of admission by the University, you are guaranteed to be accepted by a College.



What does a College offer?

- **Welfare and practical support** through a Graduate Tutor. They monitor your progress and provide information on academic and pastoral matters and organise an induction programme to help you settle in. Colleges also provide a College nurse, Chaplain and/or counsellor and provide advice on childcare provision in Cambridge.
- **Accommodation and catering** with College catering offered in formal and informal environments, at a reasonable price. College accommodation and catering is not guaranteed – contact the Accommodation Office for more information about accommodation outside the Colleges (www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk).
- **Academic enrichment and support** with the provision of library and IT facilities, and opportunities to supervise undergraduates (where applicable).
- **A cross-intellectual community** with opportunities to exchange experiences across disciplines and generations in an informal setting through networks and seminars
- **Finance and funding:** Advice on identifying and obtaining financial assistance and help in cases of unforeseen and unforeseeable financial difficulties
- **A strong social focus** with a student association or graduate society run by students with College support.
- **Social, cultural and recreational activities** with suitable facilities to enhance your personal development
- **Lifelong membership** of the College.

Choosing a College

Here are some things to consider, which may help you make a decision about which College you would prefer:

- **Your age** – three Colleges only consider applications from mature students (aged 21 and over), and two Colleges are for postgraduate students only.
- **Your chosen study option** – not all Colleges accept part-time students.
- **College size** – Colleges accept differing numbers of students and so some student populations are larger than others.
- **Particular facilities** – whilst all Colleges offer fantastic facilities, there are differences in the exact nature of the facilities they offer. You should look at College websites to find out more about what each has to offer.
- **Accessibility** – facilities and accommodation provision vary between Colleges. Therefore, if you have particular access requirements, we recommend you check which Colleges would best meet your needs. You may find it helpful to get in touch with the College directly to discuss your specific needs. The Disability Resource Centre's Access Guide is a good source of additional information regarding facilities and accessibility. www.cam.ac.uk/accessguide

Please note, two of our Colleges (Murray Edwards, www.murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk, and Newnham, www.newn.cam.ac.uk) only accept applications from female students and students who are formally recognised as/identify as female. Both Colleges offer more details on their websites.

There's lots of information on the College websites to help you narrow down your choices.

Many full-time postgraduates live in College accommodation, but few Colleges are able to house all their student members and so accommodation tends to be offered on a first-come first-served basis. The University's Accommodation Service can assist those who need to find accommodation outside the Colleges: www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk



International students

We are proud of our diverse student community, with more than 40 per cent of postgraduate students coming from overseas, representing more than 130 countries around the globe.

Applying with non-UK qualifications

We accept a large number of qualifications from around the world. If you have not previously studied in the UK, you can check the equivalence qualifications guidelines for your country on the International section of the Postgraduate Admissions website.

www.postgraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/international-qualifications

English language requirements

If English is not your first language, you may be required to take a language test. You can check whether you are likely to be asked to take a language test, which language tests your course accepts, and the minimum required score in the International section of the Postgraduate Admissions website.

www.postgraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/international/competence-english

For further information about applying as an international student, such as visas and immigration advice, please visit the International Students website:

www.internationalstudents.cam.ac.uk

Frequently asked questions

Can I apply for more than one course?

Yes, you can apply for as many courses as you wish. You must complete a separate application form for each course and you must also pay the full application fee for each application you make. However, if you're applying for courses in the School of Life Sciences, you may be eligible for the three for one scheme. You can apply for up to three courses within the scheme for only one application fee. Further details, including a list of eligible courses, can be found on our website.

Can I apply to both Cambridge and Oxford?

Yes, the restriction on applying to both universities only applies to undergraduate admissions.

I am still studying and do not have a final transcript. What do I do?

Please request an interim transcript of your courses/ results so far from your university and upload this. If you receive a conditional offer, you will need to provide the original final transcript to meet the conditions of your offer.

Should I submit a CV?

Yes, all courses require you to upload a CV to the Applicant Portal as part of your application.

Can I defer my place?

Deferrals are only possible if your course has another start date within the same academic year and the course permits deferred entry. Whether you can defer your place is at the discretion of the Department/Faculty.

For more answers to Frequently Asked Questions, please visit our website:

www.cam.ac.uk/pgfaq



Find out more


If you'd like more information or details about anything mentioned in this guide, or have questions that have not been answered here, please visit the Postgraduate Admissions website or contact the Postgraduate Admissions Office directly.



Postgraduate Admissions Office


 pg.admissions@admin.cam.ac.uk

Cambridge Students' Union (Cambridge SU)

 01223 333313

 www.cambridgesu.co.uk

Disability Resource Centre (DRC)

 01223 332301

 disability@admin.cam.ac.uk

 www.cam.ac.uk/disability

International Students

 internationaladmissions@admin.cam.ac.uk

 www.iso.admin.cam.ac.uk/contact

Postgraduate Alternative Prospectus

 www.gradunion.cam.ac.uk/alt-prospectus

The Postgraduate Alternative Prospectus was written by Cambridge postgraduates to give insight into life at Cambridge. It provides you with an overview of living and studying in Cambridge, tips on where to look for funding, and guidance for the application process.



Postgraduate Virtual Open Days, 1-14 November 2021

The University offers a Virtual Open Day in November each year. The event is hosted on the University's Virtual Tour (www.virtualltour.study.cam.ac.uk) and offers the opportunity to ask staff your questions, find out more about the application process, and explore Cambridge virtually. You will be able to access webinars, films and resources, learn about our courses and hear from students about their Cambridge experience. There will also be presentations on making an application and writing a research proposal, plus information about funding opportunities at the University.

To find out more about the Open Days and to book your place, visit our website:

 www.postgraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/openday





UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

For more information contact the
Postgraduate Admissions Office:

Postgraduate Admissions Office
Student Services Centre
New Museums Site
Cambridge CB2 3PT

✉ pg.admissions@admin.cam.ac.uk

🌐 www.postgraduate.study.cam.ac.uk

Details are correct at the time of publication (September 2021)
but should be checked against the Undergraduate Study
website for the most up-to-date information.

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